

{In Archive} Post Mining Land Use Forum

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I attended the Fifth Annual Post Mine Land Use Forum today in Logan County, W.Va., at Secretary Huffman's request. The forum was attended by about 100 people, mostly coal industry representatives and economic development authorities from a four-county region that comprise the Corridor G Regional Development Authority. Corridor G is Rt. 119, that runs from the top of the state through the southern coalfields. The four-lane corridor through southern West Virginia was completed in the last few years .

Secretary Huffman and Governor Manchin were speakers at the forum, and both gave similar talks to the ones we've heard in months past, with messages that ask EPA to 'give some guidance, direction and straightforward requirements' in the 404 permitting process. Other speakers talked about the success of post mining land uses in the Corridor G area, and at least one speaker talked at length about the Buffalo Mountain permit and its importance. That permit will be the connector from Corridor G (a north/south corridor) to the King Coal Highway (an east/west corridor through the southern coalfields). Without that permit and the KCH as its construction mechanism, it will not be built.

I was introduced as EPA's representative. I was approached by nearly everyone at the event by the end of the day, each person with a story as to why PMLUs as economic development in the region was so critical to the area's growth.

The speakers at the event were as follows:

Howard Sammons, Chairman, Corridor G Regional Development Authority
Terry Clarke, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (standing in for Ginger Mullins)
Jim Corsaro, VP, Penn Virginia Resources
Jeff Wood, Energy Development Specialist, WV Office of Coalfield Community Development
Randy Harris, Mingo County Redevelopment Authority
Matt Fisher, EarthMark Mitigation Services
Jonathan Fowler, EarthMark Mitigation Services
Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
Delegate Ron Stollings, D-Logan

I can send you any additional information that you need. Just send me an email or give me a call on my cell.

Thanks,

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